**Upgraded Technology in Sugar Industry**

*340. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has urged the sugar industry to upgrade technologies and work for the improvement in production of sugarcane so that the projected demand of sugar for the Ninth Plan could be met;

(b) if so, the details of Upgraded technology so far introduced in the sugar industry;

(c) whether foreign technology has also been introduced in this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being considered to introduce the latest technology in the sugar sector ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

The Prime Minister has on several occasions urged the sugar industry to improve the quality and productivity of sugarcane so that the projected demand for the 9th Five Year Plan can be met. He has also emphasised the importance of initiating appropriate modernisation measures in order to upgrade the current technologies being used in the sugar industry.

(b) to (f) A Mission Mode Project of sugar technologies has been set up under the Department of Science and Technology to focus on the various requirements to technology upgradation in the sugar industry and to facilitate induction of technologies. A number of technologies are under trial in different sugar factories for example low pressure extraction system for juice extraction, cane separation system, vacuum filtrate treatment system, etc. In addition, a number of entrepreneurs in the country have entered into collaboration with various foreign companies for introducing the latest technologies in the Indian Sugar Industry. In a few cases new technologies have directly been obtained from the foreign companies through purchase of equipments and know-how.

Government also provides loans at concessional terms for assisting modernisation and upgradation of sugar mills, from Sugar Development Fund.

**Barbed Wire Fencing around a Religious Place**

3566. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :
SHRI HAHPAL SINGH SATHI :
SHRI MAHAVIR LAL BISHVAKARMA :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the reports that the erection of barbed wire fencing around a religious place located on the Upper Ridge Road of Delhi has created grave risks of lives for the visitors in the case of calamity;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made proper security arrangements and provided other civic facilities to the people visiting the place;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) A piece of land measuring 196 feet × 198 feet has been allotted to Shri Asharam Bapu Ashram in the Central Ridge opposite Rabindra Rangshala. The area around the Ashram has been fenced in pursuance of the order of the Supreme Court of India to protect the Ridge. A passage of 6 feet has been provided from the Ridge Road to the Ashram. Necessary arrangements exist for the security of the devotees.

*[Translation]*

**Pension to Handicapped Persons and Widows**

3567. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that pension has not been given to the newly registered widows, helpless and handicapped persons in the hilly Uttranchal area of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to take any action to ensure disbursement of pension to them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) The required information has been called for from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the concerned Ministries/Departments.

*[English]*

**Cases Handled by CBI**

3568. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 565 dated November 26, 1996 regarding "cases handled by CBI" and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cases in which the charge-sheet is still to be filed, case-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The requisite information has since been collected. The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel & Training) have also sent a statement in fulfilment of the assurance given in reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 565 for 26.11.1996 vide their O.M. No. 361/1/97-AVD. III, dated 4th March, 1997 (shown as Statement).